

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
August 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz virtually. This special meeting was being conducted in person and through videoconferencing communications pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, enacted June 12, 2020, and section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, allowing for virtual board meetings during a disaster declaration relating to public health concerns. The Chair of the Board determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees attended this meeting by audio and visual conferencing and not by physical presence.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Peter Chomentowski, Felicia Bohanon, and Holly Nicholson.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Perry indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting has been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2021

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2021. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

UAC Representative Chomentowski expressed that he is looking forward to being apart of UAC and working with the trustees.

UAC Representative Nicholson commented that she is happy to be back on UAC and looks forward to working with the trustees on issues that are important to the Operating Staff Council.

Chair Wasowicz thanked Trustee Barsema for his leadership over the last two years. Chair Wasowicz mentioned he is looking forward to working with the trustees, President Freeman, and her team to continue to accomplish our vision and mission here at NIU. Chair Wasowicz also thanked the trustees for moving seamlessly into their new committee chair roles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there were no public comments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 152

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 152.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Abstain

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. External Print Services

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.c. Campus Mobile Technology Needs

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Abstain
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.d. Bank Account – Signatory Authorization

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.e. Harper College University Center Strategic Partnership Agreement

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held September 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Wasowicz stated that the Board needed to go into closed session and would not take up new business following the closed session. He asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct closed session to discuss the following subjects as authorized by the Open Meetings Act: personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act; collective bargaining matters as generally described under section 2(c)(2) of the open meetings act; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5) and (6) of the open meetings act; litigation and risk management matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act; and closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to take a roll call vote to close the public meeting.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 1:29 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 2:48 p.m.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero

seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Doyle
Recording Secretary

In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.